CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining a whether a subject has a modified susceptibility to cardiovascular disease comprising: detecting in a nucleic acid sample from said subject at least one CETP allele selected from the group consisting of intron 1 (707); intron 8 (3707); intron 8 (3946); promoter (VNTR); insertion (307); intron 15 (493), wherein said CETP allele is associated with a modified level of CETP activity.

2. A method as defined in claim **1** wherein said cardiovascular disease is associated with low HDL.

3. A method as defined in claim **1** wherein said one or more alleles are selected from the group consisting of: intron 1 (707) allele 2; intron 8 (3707) allele 2; intron 8 (3946) allele 2; promoter (VNTR) allele 2; insertion (307) allele 2; intron 15 (493) allele 2, wherein detection of said allele indicates that the subject has a decreased predisposition to cardiovascular disease.

4. A method as defined in claim **1**, wherein said detecting utilizes a technique selected from the group consisting of: a) allele specific oligonucleotide hybridization; b) size analysis; c) sequencing; d) hybridization; e) 5' nuclease digestion; f) single-stranded conformation polymorphism; g) allele specific hybridization; h) primer specific extension; i) oligonucleotide ligation assay; and j) RFLP analysis.

5. A method as defined in claim **1**, further comprising amplifying the nucleic acid sample.

6. An isolated nucleic acid comprising at least 11 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ. ID. No: 6, 8, 10, 12 or 14 or a complement thereof.

7. An isolated nucleic acid comprising at least one GAAA repeat, or complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid is amplified from the CETP promoter region corresponding to -2144 to -1974 nucleotides from the transcriptional start site.

8. An isolated nucleic acid as defined in claim **6** wherein said nucleic acid is useful for allele specific hybridization.

9. An isolated nucleic acid as defined in claim **6** wherein said nucleic acid is the product of amplification and is no larger than 5,000 nucleotides in length.

10. A kit, comprising: a means for detecting one or more alleles at a CETP locus selected from the group consisting of: intron 1 (707); intron 8 (3707); intron 8 (3946); promoter (VNTR); insertion (307); and intron 15 (493), and a first primer oligonucleotide that hybridizes 5' or 3' to one of said CETP loci.

11. A kit as defined in claim **10**, further comprising a second primer oligonucleotide that hybridizes 5' or 3' to one of said CETP loci.

12. A kit as defined in claim **11**, wherein said first primer and said second primer hybridize to the same CETP loci and wherein said first primer and said second primer hybridize to opposite sides of a region in the range of between about 50 and about 1000 base pairs.

13. A kit as defined in claim **10** wherein the detection means is selected from the group consisting of: a) allele specific oligonucleotide hybridization; b) size analysis; c) sequencing; d) hybridization; e) 5' nuclease digestion; f) single-stranded conformation polymorphism; g) allele specific hybridization; h) primer specific extension; i) oligonucleotide ligation assay; and j) RFLP analysis.

14. A kit as defined in claim **10** further comprising an amplification means.

15. A kit as defined in claim **10** further comprising a control.

16. A method for treating a patient, comprising: detecting at least one CETP allele in a nucleic acid sample from said patient, diagnosing a cardiovascular disorder, selecting at least one cardiovascular disorder therapeutic, and providing the cardiovascular disorder therapeutic(s) to the patient.

17. A method as defined in claim **16** wherein said CETP allele is from a locus selected from the group consisting of: intron 1 (707), intron 8 (3707), intron 8 (3946), promoter (VNTR), insertion (307), and intron 15 (493).

18. A method as defined in claim **16** wherein said CETP allele is a risk factor for said cardiovascular disorder and said therapeutic reduces the risk associated with the risk factor.

19. A method as defined in claim **16** wherein the patient is treated with a therapeutic that modulates CETP activity.

20. A method as defined in claim **19** wherein the patient is additionally treated with a therapeutic that modulates LDL levels.

21. A method as defined in claim **20** wherein the patient is additionally treated with an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

22. A method as defined in claim **16** wherein the patient is treated with a therapeutic that modulates LDL levels.

23. A method as defined in claim **16** wherein the patient is treated with an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

24. A method as defined in claim **16** further comprising identifying the presence of a risk factor for the cardiovascular disorder, and formulating a treatment plan that reduces an effect of the risk factor to the patient.

25. A method as defined in claim **24** wherein the treatment plan comprises an administration of a therapeutic agent that modifies the risk factor.

26. A method as defined in claim **16** wherein said detecting utilizes a technique selected from the group consisting of: (a) allele specific oligonucleotide hybridization; b) size analysis; c) sequencing; d) hybridization; e) 5' nuclease digestion; f) single-stranded conformation polymorphism; g) allele specific hybridization; h) primer specific extension; i) oligonucleotide ligation assay; and j) RFLP analysis.

27. A method as defined in claim **26** further comprising amplifying the nucleic acid sample.

28. A sample as defined in claim **16** wherein said therapeutic is a nucleic acid.

29. A method as defined in claim **28** wherein said nucleic acid encodes at least a bioactive portion of the CETP protein.

30. A method as defined in claim **28** wherein said nucleic acid integrates at the CETYP gene locus and affects CETP activity.

31. A method for identifying a cardiovascular disorder therapeutic comprising: contacting a subject carrying at least one CETP allele selected from the group consisting of: intron 1 (707), intron 8 (3707), intron 8 (3946), promoter (VNTR), insertion (307), and intron 15 (493), with a test substance, and determining the effect of said test substance on CETP activity.

32. A method as defined in claim **31** wherein said subject is a transgenic animal.

33. A method as defined in claim **31** wherein said subject is a cell.

34. A method for identifying a subject suffering from a cardiovascular disorder that would be responsive to treatment with at least one cardiovascular disorder therapeutic, comprising: detecting in a nucleic acid sample from said subject at least one CETP allele selected from the group consisting of intron 1 (707), intron 8 (3707), intron 8 (3946), promoter (VNTR), insertion (307), and intron 15 (493), wherein said CETP allele is associated with a modified level of CETP activity.

35. A method as defined in claim **34** wherein the therapeutic modulates CETP activity.

36. A method as defined in claim **34** wherein the therapeutic modulates LDL levels.

37. A method as defined in claim **36** wherein the therapeutic is an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.